

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07  
FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-02 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00  
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 CEQ-01 ERDA-07 DODE-00 EPA-04  
IO-13 L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05 PM-04 USIA-15 OES-06 SS-15  
INT-05 FEA-01 /129 W

----- 114469 /17

R 131806Z DEC 76  
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2566  
INFO ALL EC CAPS 2858

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 12232

E.O. 11652:N/A  
TAGS: EEC,SENV  
SUBJECT: EC ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL: DECEMBER 9, 1976: RESULTS

REFS: (A) 75 EC BRUSSELS 10974 (B) 75 EC BRUSSELS 9432

1.SUMMARY: DURING ITS DECEMBER 9 SESSION,THE EC ENVIRONMENT CONCIL APPROVED AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PROGRAM FOR 1977-1981 AGREED TO THE EC'S JOINING THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE RHINE; AND ADOPTED A DIRECTIVE ON BIOLOGICAL SCREENING FOR LEAD.THE COUNCIL DEFERRED ACTION ON FOUR OTHER AGENDA ITEMS: THE BARCELONA CONVENTION ON PROTECTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN A DIRECTIVE ON WATER QUALITY; WATER POLLUTION CAUSED BY PULP MILLS; AND TITANIUM DIOXIDE POLLUTION.END SUMMARY.

2.SECOND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PROGRAM. THE COUNCIL APPROVED THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL FOR A 1977-1981 ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PROGRAM,WHICH IS INTENDED TO ENSURE CONTINUITY OF PROJECTS INITIATED UNDER THE NOVEMBER 1973 FOUR -YEAR ACTION PROGRAM.FOREMOST AMONG FOLLOW-UP PROJECTS IS THE DIRECTIVE ON WATER POLLUTION APPROVED BY WRITTEN PROCEDURE MAY 4, 1976,IN THE WAKE OF BITTER ARGUMENT DURING THE OCTOBER AND DECEMBER 1975 ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL MEETINGS (REFTELS).THAT DIRECTIVE ESTABLISHED TWO LISTS OF SUBSTANCES TO BE BANNED FROM COMMUNITY WATERS.THE FIRST,SO-CALLED "BLACK LIST",  
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ENUMERATED SUBSTANCES WOSE TOXICITY PERSISTENCE AND

BIOACCUMULATION CALLED FOR THEIR ELIMINATION FROM EC WATERS ON THE BASIS OF LIMIT VALUES PROPOSED BY THE COMMISSION AND APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL. THE SECOND, OR "GREY", LIST INCLUDES SUBSTANCES WHICH CAN BE CONFINED TO GIVEN AREAS, AND WHOSE CONTROL IS SUBJECT TO MEMBER STATE ACTION. THE SECOND ACTION PROGRAM WILL INCLUDE IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES FOR THE MAY 4 DIRECTIVE, AIMED AT REDUCING WATER POLLUTION LEVELS OF CADMIUM, MERCURY, AND OTHER "BLACK LIST" SUBSTANCES. THE PROGRAM WILL ALSO CALL FOR A COMMISSION PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE ON PROTECTION OF GROUND WATER.

3. OTHER AREAS TO BE COVERED UNDER THE SECOND ACTION PROGRAM WILL INCLUDE: INTRODUCTION OF COMMUNITY PROCEDURES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT; DEVELOPMENT OF SYSTEMS FOR MAPPING DATA ON THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT; DEVELOPMENT OF MEASURES TO COMBAT ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION TMENT STANDARDS; FORMULATION OF PLANT, ANIMAL AND MARINE LIFE PROTECTION MEASURES; WASTE MANAGEMENT; INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR (INCLUDING SPECIAL ATTENTION TO ENVIRONMENT PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES); AND, IN LIGHT OF THE 1976 DROUGHT, PROTECTION OF WATER RESOURCES.

4. COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF THE RHINE. THE COUNCIL ADOPTED A DECISION RATIFYING THE DECEMBER 3, 1976, BONN CONVENTION PROTECTION OF THE RHINE AGAINST CHEMICAL POLLUTION AND ADOPTED A SEPARATE DECISION ENABLING THE EC, REPRESENTED BY THE COMMISSION, TO TAKE PART IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE RHINE AGAINST POLLUTION.

5. BIOLOGICAL SCREENING FOR LEAD. THE COUNCIL ADOPTED, AS IN A-POINT, A DIRECTIVE ON BIOLOGICAL SCREENING FOR

LEAD IN BLOOD SYSTEM. THE DIRECTIVE WAS DEVELOPED AS PART OF THE FIRST ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PROGRAM. IT PROVIDES FOR THE ORGANIZATION, ON A COMMON BASIS BY THE MEMBER STATES, OF AN ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT EXPOSURE TO LEAD WITHIN THE MEMBER STATES OF THE NNE  
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(GASOLINE, PAINTS, CERAMICS, WATER PIPES, WATER AND AIR POLLUTION, ETC....). IT FURTHER PROVIDES FOR TWO SEPARATE SURVEYS TO MEASURE LEAD CONTENT IN THE BLOOD IN THE MEMBER STATE POPULATIONS, TO BE CARRIED OUT OVER A FOUR-YEAR PERIOD WITH SAMPLES OF AT LEAST 50 ANALYSES PER MILLION INHABITANTS IN EACH SURVEY. THE COMMISSION IS TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS ON THE BASIS OF THE PROGRAM RESULTS.

6. BARCELONA CONVENTION.THE COUNCIL DEFERRED ACTION ON THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL TO RATIFY THE BARCELONA CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN AGAINST POLLUTION,BECAUSE OF A BRITISH RESERVE PENDING UK PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON THE PROPOSAL,NOW SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 16.THE UK IS EXPECTED TO LIFT ITS RESERVE AFTER THAT DEBATE AND THE PROPOSAL SHOULD BE ADOPTED,EITHER AS AN A-POINT OR BY WRITTEN PROCEDURE, SOON AFTER.

7.DARFT DIRECTIVE ON WATER FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION. THE MINISTERS WERE UNABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE ON QUALITY OF WATER FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION,WHICH INCLUDES NOT ONLY DRINKING WATER BUT ALSO WATER USED IN FOOD PRODUCTION AND THE MANUFACTURE,PROCESSING,AND PRESERVATION OF SUBSTANCES INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.THERE WAS GENERAL DISAGREEMENT ON A NUMBER OF TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSAL; BUT THE DUTCH ALSO GAVE VOICE TO THEIR SPECIFIC CONCERN THAT UPSTREAM POLLUTION OF THE RHINE MIGHT MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO MEET PROPOSED STANDARDS.THE DOSSIER HAS BEEN RETURNED TO COREPER FOR FURTHER EXAMINATION.

8. PULP MILL AND TITANIUM DIOXIDE POLLUTION. THE COUNCIL FAILED TO DECIDE ON COMMISSION PROPOSALS FOR LIMITING PULP MILL AND TITANIUM DIOXIDE POLLUTION. BOTH OF THE FILES,WHICH INVOLVE SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL INTEREST,HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO COREPER FOR FURTHER STUDY.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WATER POLLUTION, ENVIRONMENT, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976ECBRU12232  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760459-1059  
**From:** EC BRUSSELS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19761249/aaaabqje.tel  
**Line Count:** 146  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 EC BRUSSELS 10974, 75 EC BRUSSELS 9432  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** schwenja  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 JUN 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <17 AUG 2004 by schwenja>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EC ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL: DECEMBER 9, 1976: RESULTS  
**TAGS:** SENV, EEC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006